117. Need for teaching commerce and industry in all Schools.

Mr. T. K. Kittan (Member, Nominated) expressed his satisfaction at the measures taken and proposed to be taken by Government in regard to the teaching of commerce, industry and agriculture. He urged the necessity of introducing commerce and industry in all schools. He requested that, in view of the decision of the Government that it would be more advantageous to open separate technical schools for the teaching of those subjects, such schools might be started with the least avoidable delay.

The Member next referred to the invention of shorthand and type-writing in Malayalam. He requested that due encouragement might be given by Government to the young men who invented them and that those subjects might be taught as optional subjects in Vernacular Middle and High Schools.

He then requested that rewards might be offered to people who made investigations of any kind that would be of use to the people in the development of industries and in other ways, that an annual allotment for the purpose might be sanctioned in the Budget, and that the fact of the offer of such rewards might be published in the Gazette and the newspapers.

Lastly, the Member requested that, when the question of the establishment of technical schools was taken up, a technical school might be opened at Kottayam.

Dewan's reply.—It is, as you know, the policy of Government to increase the number of Industrial schools, but it is necessarily a slow process. You may be quite sure that the Government will do all that they possibly can in this matter. Government will be glad to see Malayalam Shorthand introduced and would like to encourage the young man who is engaged in inventing it. Let him write to Government about it.

Member.—There is one Mr. Pandalai who knows it.

Dewan.—Yes. Let him write to Government. We shall encourage him.

You want commercial subjects to be included in the curriculum of schools. In aided schools, that is a matter to be left to the discretion of the managers. If you want to have them introduced in the departmental schools, we want teachers. The teachers should, in the first instance, be turned out by the Commercial School at Alleppey. When a sufficient number of teachers are forthcoming, we can introduce them.

You want rewards to be given to people who make new inventions. That is better done at Exhibitions. We must have periodical Exhibitions. Government will give grants to Agricultural and Industrial Exhibitions, and in these Exhibitions, any new invention is bound to be rewarded and encouraged.

As regards patents, we do grant patents. We have got a Patents and Designs Regulation, to deal with new inventions. If there is any real invention, Government will be glad to give a patent.

As regards the starting of an Industrial School at Kottayam, it is part of Government's policy which can be given effect to only step by step.

118. Need of imparting instruction in Survey to Boys in Vernacular Schools.

Mr. Avira Mathai (Member, Muvattupuzha Taluk) represented that, although Travancore could boast of a high percentage of literacy, the education imparted in the schools in the State was merely literary. He expressed satisfaction at the decision of the Government to introduce Manual Training in schools. The Member then suggested the introduction of survey-teaching in vernacular schools from Class III to Class VII in order to give a working knowledge of elementary survey to all pupils who passed through vernacular schools. He dwelt at length on the advantages to be derived by having a knowledge of survey to the ordinary layman. The Member then associated himself with what Mr. K. M. Mamman Mappillai had

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

said about the grievances of the holders of English School Leaving Certificates with the endorsement "Eligible", but not qualified for public service in the State, and requested that their case might be sympathetically considered by the Government. The Member finally complained about the working of the Poramboke Rules.

Dewan's reply.—You say that a knowledge of survey is necessary for the ryot to see whether a piece of land classed as an encroachment by the Survey officers is really one. Such a knowledge cannot be acquired by an elementary study of survey in Classes III to VII of Vernacular schools. In this country of hills and valleys, no survey can be accurate or even approximate without the use of the theodolite, and the use of the theodolite involves a knowledge of trigonometry. A useful knowledge of survey cannot be had from schools intended for imparting general education. If any particular boy wishes to have a knowledge of survey, there are survey schools conducted in Kottayam and Trivandrum and he can attend either of them.

As regards Poramboke Rules, I have already given my reply and I need not repeat it.

In regard to English School Leaving Certificates, I have already given my reply to Mr. Mamman Mappillai. The matter will engage the attention of Government.

119. Desirability of cancelling the recent orders of Government enhancing school fees in the State.

Mr. P. Padmanabha Pillai B. A., B. L. (Member, Municipal Council, Trivandrum) represented that the contemplated enhancement of fees in classes V, VI and VII of vernacular schools from *chackrams* 14, 16 and 18 respectively to *chackrams* 21, 24 and 27 and in the Preparatory class and Forms III to VI of English Schools from Rs. 12 and Rs. 36 to Rs. 18 and Rs. 42 respectively would work considerable hardship on the people, both rich and poor, in the present economic condition of the country. According to the Government Communiqué dated the 17th September 1921, the Government order enhancing the school fees appeared to have been passed on the recommendations of the Education Expenditure Committee, the Headmasters' Conference, and the Special Educational Conference held in April 1921. The Conferences could not be considered as really voicing the opinion of a disinterested non-official body. The Headmasters were a class of persons deeply interested in the enhancement of fees for their personal benefit, while the special Educational Conference was domineered by the official element and the bulk of the non-official element consisted of persons connected with grant-in-aid schools, highly interested in the enhancement of fees, there being only two disinterested non-officials. A perusal of the proceedings of the latter Conference would show that the officials and school managers had already made up their minds to enhance the rates of fees and were vying with each other in increasing the educational burden of the people. The Director of Public Instruction recommended the levy of a fee of 2 As. and 4 As. in classes III and IV of Primary schools and Rs. 2 in the Preparatory class, and a Secretary of the Huzur Office recommended an entrance fee in schools. On the other hand, the Education Expenditure Committee consisted of a representative and responsible body of high officials and non-officials and this Committee after mature consideration of the various aspects of the question of educational expenditure never recommended an increase in the rates of fees obtaining in the various grades of educational institutions. In support of his contention, the Member referred to paragraphs 51, 57, 90 and 99 of the Report of the Educational Expenditure Committee relating to the levy of fees. In paragraph 51, in the case of Primary education, the Committee said that the levy of a small fee would no doubt give considerable relief to Government and would enable them to set apart more funds for the extension of education. They, however, considered that, both on principle and from expediency, it would be a retrograde step if fees were re-levied in those schools. Again, in paragraph 57 of the report, the Committee stated that it might be possible to increase the fees a little in Vernacular Middle School classes, but that, since education in those classses was generally meant for the poor and as the fees had been

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly